

The PIA Bulletin, Issue 4, June 2012

Legal advice sought

PIA directors met face to face with Jamie Beagant of Leigh Day Solicitors in London to review the possibilities of taking legal action.

Pervious advice was confirmed; if PIA started a JR against the MoJ, it would appear as defending a commercial interest of its interpreter members. And then trying to get an NGO to join in would not convince anyone it was being done in the public's interest. But an NGO demanding a JR would have a much clear focussed purpose; protecting the human rights of victims of the present arrangements.

However, there is one other JR that PIA could rightly bring. It would be against Police Procurement. So far, the police have decided not to action their decision but if they were to, it would be very easy to argue that their decision was irrational. PIA is ready to move on this.

Because Professional Interpreters Alliance Ltd is a company limited by guarantee and a legal entity, it can bring legal action - and has done - with minimal risk to members.

Individuals badly affected by current interpreting services

In this campaign we are looking for cases in which individuals caught up in the criminal justice system have been prejudiced by the failure of the provision of interpreting services. For example:

- Cases where an individual has been wrongly/unsafely convicted in a trial where interpreting services demonstrably failed to reach the required standard
- Cases where individuals have been wrongly/unlawfully detained as a result of the failure of an interpreter to attend the police station within the prescribed times

- Cases where an individual has been kept on remand for a significantly longer period than he would otherwise have been because of a trial that has collapsed as a result of failure in interpreting services.
- Cases where urgent Court proceedings (injunction proceedings etc) have had to be adjourned because of interpreting failings.
- Cases where trials have collapsed and prosecutions dropped as a result of failings in interpretation (and thus the victims of crime have been prejudiced)
- Immigrations tribunal cases where individuals have successfully appealed decisions on the basis of flawed interpreting.

In particular, however, we are looking for cases where the individuals who have been affected have taken or are taking some sort of legal action to redress the failings identified. This might be:

- In the case of flawed interpreting at a criminal trial, a criminal appeal.
- In the case of wrongful/unlawful detention, a claim for damages for false imprisonment
- In the case of a victim of crime who has seen a prosecution collapse, a formal complaint sent to the IPCC or Court Service
- In the cases of an asylum seeker who has been prejudiced at his immigration appeal, a successful appeal to the UTT or Court of Appeal

Evidence of legal action flowing from the failings will provide us with particularly cogent evidence that the system is failing. If such cases can be identified, it would be helpful if the following details could be sent to Leigh Day & Co so that they might follow-up with the lawyers and individuals involved:

1. The nature of the identified failure and, if it is a legal case, the details/title of the case.
2. The nature of the steps (legal action etc) taken in response to the failure (and the details/title of the case if available).

3. The identity of the lawyers acting (preferably the name of the firm of solicitors representing the affected individual) and, unless there are reporting restrictions, the identity of the individual involved.

By Jamie Beagent, Solicitor

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Click this link for details of the [Unlawful Detention Campaign](#) and see how you can help.

Interpreters meet NAO

The National Audit Office (NAO) scrutinises public spending on behalf of Parliament. It focuses on three strategic priorities: Informed government; financial management and reporting; and cost effective delivery.

MPs have approached them, PIA have approached them. NAO then wanted to meet a representative of interpreter organisations. The members of [Professional Interpreters for Justice](#) (The Steering Group) authorised Madeleine Lee to go see them on its behalf after discussing a dossier addressing the NAO Terms of Reference.

More details of this meeting will be provided when the information is officially released.



PIA MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

The Membership Contribution is only £10 per six months

Please update your membership details using the form available at <http://profintal.org.uk>

**Direct bank payments only please
NO CHEQUES**

Keep your own record of payment;

PIA does not issue receipts
membership@profintal.org.uk

Public concern

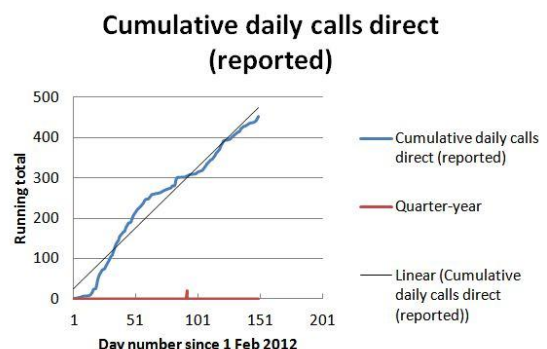
Do you know someone who is not an interpreter but is concerned that non-English speakers are not getting the justice that both they and the local community deserve? Please give us contact details, we need a short letter or email from them.

PIA mandate

Professional Interpreters Alliance Ltd is a company limited by guarantee. As a legal entity, it can bring legal action. The Professional Interpreters' Alliance (without the Ltd) is a representative organisation with people. That is why a list of members is so important; it gives PIA a mandate. It is so important to have PIA's legal bite shown to be represented. That is why we need **your name** in the members' list so please renew.

Even if you are a member of another organisation, you can also join PIA. It is only £10 for 6 months to cover mainly admin costs. So please complete the form [here](#) or SMS 07985039135 with your postal address and we will mail you one.

Work is going elsewhere



The trend is constantly rising. It would curve to the right and then level if ALS were doing more jobs and we were getting less direct calls. There is a sign of this close to Day 91 when their quarter-year report was due. Since then, they lost their grip again.

The more reports we get the better the picture so please continue to record events:

- Log direct calls from courts, tribunals, police: <http://rpsi.name/default/calls.html>
- Report your evidence in a mini-statement at <http://rpsi.name/default>.
- Pass on stories you heard from staff and lawyers to <http://linguistlounge.org>.

Yes, it does matter and it will make a difference, so please do it.

Steering Group minutes

Reports of meetings of interpreters' organisations (Professional Interpreters for Justice) are now available to PIA members. Reports of the previous meetings can be requested by sending us an email.

A new development is that NRPSI will emailing the reports to its registrants, many of whom do not belong to an organisation or follow the various fora.

To send news to the PIA Bulletin or to contact PIA, email info@profintal.org.uk

Membership enquiries should go to membership@profintal.org.uk
